Distribution of wealth.

179. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to question No. 36, dated 31st July 1933, regarding the necessity for a better distribution of wealth, will the Government state:—

(a) whether they stick up to the same position now;

(b) why the Government did not 'look into the question' and what they were doing all along in the line;

(c) whether they are aware that many other civilized countries have removed the disparity in the distribution of their values;

(d) what definitely they can do to realise a better distribution;

(e) whether they cannot make a beginning by further taxing unearned margins of our money-lenders, factories, etc., as they once undertook to do in open Council ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government have had no occasion.

(c) No information.

(d) The Government cannot do anything in the matter in the existing state of society.

(e) Vide answer to (d).

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know what occasion did they require except their very existence for public opinion ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—It is a matter of opinion. The circumstances which justify the existing distribution of wealth and the necessity to enquire whether the present distribution can be made better, as if it is bad, are all matters of opinion. Government's opinion is that therefore no necessity to go into that question.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Am I to understand Sir, that a better distribution is necessary ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—It is a matter of opinion. Government think so.

Income-tax appeals.

180. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.— Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the number of income-tax appeals filed before the Diwan Peishkar (Income-tax Commissioner) up-to-date;

(b) the number of references made by him to the Chief Court up-to-date ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—(a) 24. (This includes review applications also.)

(b) one.

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